

An Act

ENROLLED HOUSE
BILL NO. 1036

By: Rosecrants, Pae, Waldron,
Menz, Hefner, Ranson, and
West (Josh) of the House

and

Kidd and Floyd of the
Senate

An Act relating to veterans; creating the Veteran Suicide Prevention Task Force; setting end date for task force; providing for task force membership; specifying deadline for task force appointments; providing for certain coordination in appointing task force members; establishing deadline for task force organizational meeting; providing for selection of chair and vice chair; providing for task force duties; setting quorum requirement; subjecting task force to Oklahoma Open Meeting Act; prohibiting compensation and reimbursement for task force members; providing for staffing and administrative support of task force; directing submission of a report of findings and recommendations; providing for noncodification.

SUBJECT: Veterans

BE IT ENACTED BY THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF OKLAHOMA:

SECTION 1. NEW LAW A new section of law not to be codified in the Oklahoma Statutes reads as follows:

A. There is hereby created until November 30, 2024, the Veteran Suicide Prevention Task Force to study and make recommendations regarding the causes and prevention of suicides among veterans in the state.

B. The task force shall be comprised of nine (9) members to be appointed as follows:

1. One member who is a veteran appointed by the Oklahoma Veterans Commission;

2. One member appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives;

3. One member appointed by the Minority Leader of the House of Representatives;

4. One member appointed by the President Pro Tempore of the Senate;

5. One member appointed by the Minority Leader of the Senate;

6. One member who is a veteran appointed by the Commissioner of the Oklahoma Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services;

7. One member employed by the Oklahoma State Department of Health appointed by the Commissioner of Health;

8. One member employed by the Oklahoma Department of Veterans Affairs appointed by the Executive Director of the Oklahoma Department of Veterans Affairs; and

9. One member who is a veteran appointed by the Governor.

C. Appointments to the task force shall be made within sixty (60) days after the effective date of this act. The appointing authorities shall coordinate their appointments to reflect the best interests of veterans of this state. To the extent practicable, the appointing authorities shall appoint a veteran to serve on the task force.

D. The task force shall conduct an organizational meeting not later than November 1, 2023. A chair and vice chair shall be selected to serve by the membership of the task force at the organizational meeting. The task force may meet as often as may be required to perform the duties imposed upon it.

E. The task force shall organize and prioritize its objectives. The task force may coordinate, communicate, and collaborate with state and federal agencies, nonprofit organizations, public and private health care entities, and state educational institutions regarding issues associated with veteran suicide.

F. A quorum of the task force shall be required to approve any final action of the task force. For purposes of this section, five (5) members shall constitute a quorum.

G. The meetings of the task force shall be subject to the Oklahoma Open Meeting Act.

H. Members of the task force shall receive no compensation or travel reimbursement.

I. The Oklahoma Department of Veterans Affairs and the House of Representatives shall provide staff and administrative support for the task force.

J. The task force shall submit a report of its findings and recommendations no later than November 30, 2024, to the Speaker of the House of Representatives, President Pro Tempore of the Senate, and Governor.

Passed the House of Representatives the 20th day of March, 2023.

Lammy West
Presiding Officer of the House
of Representatives

Passed the Senate the 20th day of April, 2023.

Wacey Jackson
Presiding Officer of the Senate

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

Received by the Office of the Governor this 24th

day of April, 20 23, at 4:23 o'clock pm M.

By: Quinn Curry

Approved by the Governor of the State of Oklahoma this 28th

day of April, 20 23, at 11:03 o'clock a M.

[Signature]
Governor of the State of Oklahoma

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE

Received by the Office of the Secretary of State this 28th

day of April, 20 23, at 2:19 o'clock p M.

By: Quinn T. Benjamin